

Advertising: Tel: 01874 610111  
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Express  
**News**

# No need for speed, say residents

**RESIDENTS** have come together to fight for a change in speed limits in four Breconshire communities.

**Express** report  
 by Clare Williams  
 news@brecon-radnor.co.uk

Villagers from Llanhamlach, Nant Ddu, Llanspyddid and Libanus, near Brecon, have united to make Welsh Government officials aware of the 'dangers' of living in villages split in half by the A470 and A40 trunk roads.

Sheena Hague, the deputy director of the Welsh Government's Network Management Division, joined Roger Williams MP, Kirsty Williams AM, Powys County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick and community representatives at a meeting in July to hear the views of local residents and see first-hand some of the areas in question.

All the communities affected have grown over the last few years, with tourist, pub and hotel businesses attracting a considerable amount of local traffic.

"This, combined with the increase in through traffic going at speed, creates a constant potential for accidents," said Llanhamlach community councillor, Dr Mervyn Bramley.

The Welsh Government is currently carrying out a review of speed limits on trunk roads in Wales, and Dr Bramley, who was present at the Llanhamlach site visit in the Old Ford Inn, with Ms Hague, added: "Local communities expect the Welsh Government to be consistent in interpreting its own guidance on setting local speed limits. This guidance was introduced in 2009 with the specific purpose of developing safer and sustainable environments for rural communities."

The current speed limit in Llanhamlach,

Llanspyddid and Nant Ddu is 60mph, and 50mph in Libanus, and while each community has its own issues with regards to the changes, reported Dr Bramley, he said all were united in their request for the speed limit to be reduced locally to at least 50mph and preferably 40mph.

"Drivers coming off the dual carriageway into Llanhamlach are not always aware that the speed limit has decreased (from 70mph to 60mph). Many drivers who know of the bends in the A40 towards Bwlch use the stretch to overtake," said Dr Bramley.

Llanhamlach residents are also campaigning for a footpath to be inserted along a section of the A40 from Peterstone Court Hotel to the nearby old Ford Inn.

Residents in Nant Ddu along the A470 are also concerned about the traffic, saying that due to the growth of the community, the much

increased visitor and local traffic combined with the heavy flow of through traffic is presenting serious problems.

Adrian Wilson, hotel manager of the Nant Ddu Lodge, which is set to expand with 30 more rooms, said: "My concern is with our existing trade, customers continue to 'run the gauntlet' of pulling out onto a very busy road.

"Motorbikes are the worst offenders where the A470 is quite simply a speed track. However heavy lorries also pose a huge problem as they pick up speed down the hill."

Mr Wilson added: "A speed reduction programme, whether signage or in my opinion cameras, is essential."

In Llanspyddid, residents are concerned at the speed in which cars travel through the village, community council member Martin Keylock saying: "The main turning into

the village itself is dangerous.

"There have been a number of incidents there and it's becoming a real problem.

"It is the main school bus route in to Brecon and the bus stop is on the wrong side of the road.

"This means children have to cross the busy road in order to get to school.

"We are encouraged to use public transport in order to save on carbon emissions but at the risk of crossing this hazardous road."

He added: "There is also a disabled gentleman from the village who has to gamble when crossing on the brow of the bend in his motorised wheelchair in order to catch the bus.

"There is no lighting on the junction which can make things worse at night. The 60mph speed limit is the real issue and with a 40mph speed limit at the new gypsy site there is no reason why Llanspyddid, which

has been here a lot longer, can't be treated the same."

Another area with road safety concerns is the village of Libanus and while the village has a reduced speed limit of 50mph, community councillor Paul Cravos believes that is still 'too fast' and is pushing the government to look at a 30mph limit.

Mr Keylock, who is a member of Glyn Tarell Community Council commented: "The speed in Libanus is a problem. It is reduced to 50mph, however the bus stop, like Llanspyddid, is on the wrong side of the road, which causes problems for residents using public transport."

The minister for transport, Edwina Hart AM has confirmed to Kirsty Williams that information gathered by Ms Hague from her summer visit will be used to inform the government's current review of speed limits on trunk roads in Wales.



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**Anna Reed, manager of Peterstone Court Hotel, pictured by the A40 between the hotel, and the Old Ford Pub in Llanhamlach. Mrs Rees was recently forced to walk along that particular stretch of road, an experience she said proved 'an extremely dangerous undertaking due to its lack of footpath'**

The publication of these results is due to be released by December 31, and Kirsty Williams, who has been involved

in the campaigns by the four Breconshire communities since they began earlier this year, said: "Local people must be heard;

and concerns hold the greatest importance as they live and work alongside these trunk roads and experience

the issues on a daily basis.

"Their views, therefore, need to influence the final decision."